

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of March 17, 2004.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 8 – 14, 16 – 21 and 24 – 28 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 7, 15, and 22 – 23 have been canceled.

Claims 1 – 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,013).

Summary of Telephonic Interview

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the time and courtesy Examiner Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy extended in participating in a telephone interview held June 17, 2004. The interview is summarized herein.

The applicants explained that the claims of the present application and more specifically claims 8, 10, 17, 18, 26 and 27, require the shadow job ticket operate as an overlay for the base job ticket in the assembly of the composite job ticket. The claims state that when the shadow job ticket is in an active state, the printing instructions encoded in the shadow data fields of the shadow job ticket be encoded into the corresponding composite data fields of the composite job ticket. However, if the shadow job ticket is not in an active state then the printing instructions encoded in the base data fields of the base job ticket be encoded into the corresponding composite data fields of the composite job ticket. Therefore, when the shadow job ticket is in an active state the printing instructions encoded in the base data fields of the base job ticket are superseded or over written by the printing instructions encoded in the shadow data fields of the shadow job ticket (see, for example, FIGURE 3 and the more detailed discussion in the following pages).

The applicants also noted that the print job of the present application is processed regardless of whether the shadow job ticket is in an active state or not. Claims 8, 18 and 27 claim that when the shadow job ticket is not in an active state, the printing instruction encoded in the base data field of the base job ticket

be encoded into the composite data field of the composite job ticket to be used in the processing of the print job. Therefore, even though the shadow job ticket is not in an active state the print job is processed using the printing instructions from the base job ticket.

Applicants also explained the difference between the JDF and page data of Suzuki are different from the "base job ticket" and "shadow job ticket" of the present application.

Comments/Arguments

In the office action dated March 17, 2004, the Examiner argues that the concepts of a "job description file (JDF)" and "page data", from the Suzuki patent, anticipate the concepts of a "base job ticket" and a "shadow job ticket" from the present patent application. The Examiner considers the combining/merging of a job description file and page data to create a print job as disclosed in Suzuki the same as the combining of a base job ticket and a shadow job ticket as disclosed in the present application. The Applicants respectfully suggest the Examiner is misinterpreting the preferred embodiments of the two concepts.

The job description file of Suzuki contains information and print attributes which pertain to the entire print job (col. 5, lines 7-10). The information and print attributes found in a job description file include the sequence in which pages are to be printed, the number of copies to be printed, paper size, whether to print in black-and-white or color, whether to print on one side or both sides of the paper, a contents list field and a contents select field along with other information (figs. 1 and 4; col. 6, line 56 to col. 7, line 17). Also, multiple job description files can be associated with and referred to in order to process a single print job. Suzuki further teaches that page data refers to the actual image data and print conditions of each individual page to be printed (fig. 1; col. 5, lines 11-13). The job description file contains fields of information that are not included in the page data, such as, a contents list field and contents select field. The contents list field of the job description file contains identification of the page data associated with the individual pages that are to be printed in the print job. The contents select field of the job description file specifies in which order the pages will be printed and how many copies of the job to print (col. 6, lines 7-20). The page

data does not contain this information, the page data of a specific page contains that page's image data and information relating only to that single specific page. Therefore, when a print job is requested a job control module locates the job description file of the print job and then uses the information from the job description file to retrieve the individual page data (image data) for each specific page to be printed in the order specified by the job description file (col. 5, lines 14-25).

The concept of a composite job ticket of the present patent application differs from the job description file and page data concept of Suzuki. Claims 10, 11 and 20 of the present application disclose a base job ticket which contains at least one data field identifying specific instructions for finishing a print job. Instructions such as whether or not the output is to be stapled, collated and/or printed on special stock, are found in correlating data fields on the base job ticket. Each base job ticket is associated with a single print job and includes base data fields containing the instructions and parameters for processing the print job. The shadow job ticket, also claimed in claims 10, 11 and 12 of the present application, contains shadow data fields which also contain instructions and parameters for processing the print job. For each base data field included on the base job ticket there is a correlating shadow data field included on the shadow job ticket. Figure 3 of the application conceptually illustrates that for each base data field (46a – 46e) there is a correlating shadow data field (56a – 56e). A composite job ticket is assembled by combining the base job ticket with any associated shadow job tickets. As seen in figure 3, the composite job ticket has composite data fields (44a – 44e) which correlate with the data fields of the base job ticket (46a – 46e). The composite data fields carry print finishing instructions and parameters selected from either the corresponding data fields of the base job ticket or the correlating data fields of the shadow job ticket. Shadow job tickets can be in one of two states, either an active state or an inactive state. If the shadow job ticket is in an active state when the composite job ticket is assembled, the instructions and parameters found in the data fields of the shadow job ticket supersede or overwrite the instructions and parameters found in the correlating base data fields. Therefore, when the shadow job ticket is in an active state and there is an instruction or parameter in a shadow data field the information is encoded into the correlating data field of the composite job ticket

but if the shadow data field is empty (does not contain an instruction or parameter) then the information of the correlating base data field is encoded into the correlating composite data field. This concept can be seen in figure 3 of the application. However, if the shadow job ticket is in an inactive state when the composite job ticket is assembled then the instructions and parameters found in the shadow data fields are ignored and the instructions and parameters found in the base data fields are encoded into the correlating composite data fields. In this respect, when the shadow job ticket is in an active state the shadow job ticket acts as an overlay of the base job ticket in the assembly of a composite job ticket.

Figure 1 of the Suzuki patent (hereinafter figure 1) and figure 3 of the present application (hereinafter figure 3) have been included herein in order to illustrate the differences between the two concepts. In figure 3 there can be seen the base job ticket (48) having a job name field (52) which associates the base job ticket (48) with a specific print job. The base job ticket (48) has five base data fields (46a – 46e) which carry print job finishing instructions. The instructions are represented by the horizontal lines displayed in the base data fields (46a – 46e). The shadow job ticket (54) also has a job name field (56) which associates the shadow job ticket with a base job ticket (48) and the specific print job. The shadow job ticket also has five shadow data fields (56a – 56e) which correlate with the base data fields (46a – 46e). Some of the shadow data fields (56a and 56c) contain print job finishing instructions as represented by the vertical lines seen in the first and third shadow data fields (56a and 56c). Three of the shadow data fields (56b, 56d and 56e) are empty as is seen by the absence of vertical lines in the second, fourth and fifth shadow data fields. The shadow job ticket (54) also has a flag (58) which indicates whether the shadow job ticket (54) is in an active or inactive state. In figure 3 the shadow job ticket (54) is indicated as being in an active state. Therefore, when the composite job ticket (42) is assembled, the print job instructions that are carried in shadow data fields (56a and 56c) are encoded into correlating composite data fields (44a and 44c), and where the shadow data fields (56b, 56d and 56e) are empty the print job instructions that are carried in the correlating base data fields (46b, 46d and 46e) are encoded into the correlating composite data fields (44b, 44d and 44e). If however, the shadow job ticket (54) were in its inactive state, then the print job

instructions carried in the base data fields (46a – 46e) would be encoded into the correlating composite data fields (44a – 44e).

In figure 1, a job description file (14) is shown referencing a number of page data (16). The job description file (14) is also shown to contain a data field that contains a job element (contents) list and a data field holding the sequence of and number of pages to be referenced (as seen in the blow-up of the job description file). Figure 1 also shows a blow-up of a page data element (16) which shows that it contains the image data of the page to be printed.

In rejecting independent claims 10, 11 and 20, The Examiner equates the “job description file” and “page data” of Suzuki to the “base job ticket” and “shadow job ticket” of the present application, respectively. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation. Nowhere in Suzuki does it expressly teach or fairly suggest a composite job ticket assembled from a base job ticket and a shadow job ticket in which all three job tickets contain correlating data fields. Suzuki, also, does not teach or fairly suggest a base job ticket corresponding to a single print job or the selecting of a print job instruction from correlating base data fields and shadow data fields depending on whether or not the shadow job ticket is active, as claimed in the claims.

Rather, Suzuki teaches job description files and page data. As stated above, job descriptions files and page data do not contain the same information as base and shadow job tickets. Job description files contain fields that specify which pages are to be printed and in which order they are to be printed in as can be seen in figure 1. The job description file shows a job element (contents) list and a call for the sequence and number of pages to be printed (in the blow-up of the JDF). The job description file is also shown referencing a number of page data which, as can be seen in the blow-up of the page data (PD), contains the image data of the page to be printed. Base job tickets and shadow job tickets, of the present application, contain correlating data fields carrying specific print job instructions and parameters which are to be applied to all the pages to be printed. Also, in Suzuki, multiple job description files can be associated with a single print job whereas, in the present application, there can be only one base job ticket associated with a single print job. Figure 3 illustrates base job tickets and shadow job tickets containing the same correlating data fields, whereas job description files and page data contain differing data fields. The contents list and

contents select data fields of the job description file would not be found in page data as illustrated in figure 1. The Applicants further disagree with the Examiner equating page data and a shadow job ticket. Suzuki teaches page data containing actual image data of each page to be printed whereas shadow job tickets contain print finishing instructions and parameters carried in data fields correlating to base data fields. Neither, shadow job tickets nor base job tickets contain any form of image data. The base job ticket data fields and shadow job ticket data fields carry only printing instructions and/or parameters for finishing a print job. Furthermore, Suzuki teaches that each page of a print job is associated with its own item of page data. A shadow job ticket contains instructions and parameters associated with all the pages of a print job. For at least these reasons independent claims 10, 11 and 20 distinguish over the cited art.

In regards to claims 10, 13 - 14, 17, 24 and 26, the Examiner interprets the concept of hold timing from the Suzuki patent as equivalent to the concept of a shadow job ticket being in an active state. The applicants disagree with this interpretation. In the method of the present application the print job continues to be processed regardless of whether the shadow job ticket is in an active or an inactive state. The state of the shadow job ticket only determines which set of instructions and parameters will be used during processing. Suzuki neither teaches nor fairly suggests a shadow job ticket being in an active or inactive state, rather, Suzuki teaches that when a hold timing request is encountered the print job is sent to and stored in data memory and the processing of the print job is discontinued. Claims 10, 13 - 14, 17, 24 and 26 distinguish over the prior art for at least this reason.

Suzuki further teaches a job description file edit routine and job description file editing unit as seen in figure 1. The routine is entered whenever instructions and/or parameters of a print job need to be edited, added or deleted. An operator must open the job description file, enter any needed changes and then close and resubmit the job description file. The process is illustrated in figure 1. This is precisely what the shadow job ticket concept was invented to avoid. Shadow job tickets are an improvement over this type of editing routine. Claims 10, 12, 17 and 26 disclose activating a shadow job ticket which already carries the needed instructions and/or parameters or generating and activating a new shadow job ticket including the desired instructions and parameters, without a

need to edit or alter the base job ticket, to assemble a composite job ticket which contains the desired instructions and/or parameters

For the reasons discussed above, independent claims 10, 11 and 20 are distinguished. Dependent claims 8 – 9, 12 – 14, 16 – 19, 21 and 24 – 28 are also distinguished.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 8 – 14, 16 – 21 and 24 – 28) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

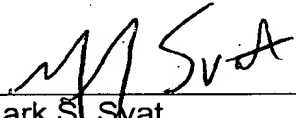
In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark S. Svat, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/19/04

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